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EXAMINER

LIANG, GWEN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 07/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/626,965

Applicant(s)

OHASHI, TADASHI

Examiner

GWEN LIANG

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment B, filed on 4/28/2003.
This action is made final.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments in Amendment B, filed on 04/28/2003 in paper number 6, with respect to the prior arts have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett et al., "Bennett " (U.S. Patent No. 4,591,983), and further in view of Sakayori et al., "Sakayori " (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,078).

With respect to claim 1, Bennett discloses a component management system comprising:

a storage unit storing hardware and firmware development, including manufacture and inspection, data generated to constitute a product, as a component development knowledge data base, wherein said hardware and firmware development data constituting said product are at a same management level (See for example: Fig. 3

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for the hardware and firmware stored in a tree diagram for a M1234 computer; col. 27 lines 1-18, wherein it is clear that the system proves to be a useful design tool for the development of hardware and firmware components, col. 5 lines 9-12, wherein these components are stored in a development knowledge database as can also be seen in Appendices II (A)-(E); col. 3 line 29 – col. 4 line 16, wherein it is clear that the data are generated to constitute a product and these components stored in a hierarchical knowledge base includes manufacture and inspection. The “configuration checking” stated in col. 3 line 40 and col. 4 lines 4-16 is analogous to “inspection”; Since all the components are stored in the same hierarchical knowledge base and they are at the same management level; Fig. 3 and Appendices II (A)-(E), wherein both hardware and firmware are in the same knowledge base and based on a customer’s product order, not only the parts constituting a product but the configuration strategy is also included in ensuring the parts in the order can perform the desired function. Therefore, they are managed altogether at a same management level.);

a computer which manages the component data base stored in said storage unit (See for example: col. 169 32-34; wherein the knowledge base is stored in the memory of a computer; col. 11 lines 26-48 and Appendix I7, wherein an example is given to show how the system manages the parts order received by the knowledge system); and

at least one client, connected to said computer, which takes out a predetermined component development data from said storage (See for example: col. 7 lines 14-24; col. 11 lines 31-43, and col. 20 lines 31-53, wherein when a customer takes out a predetermined component development data by initiating an order for a component, the

configuration for the component in the initial order will be checked by the knowledge base management system and a finalized configuration for the ordered component will be responded to the customer).

However Bennett does not explicitly disclose a client/server environment, wherein the component database is stored on the server and the client is communicating with the server via a network to access the component database.

Sakayori discloses a client/server environment, wherein a client/server environment, wherein the component database is stored on the server and the client is communicating with the server via a network to access the component database (See for example: Fig. 1 and Fig. 2).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the client/server environment as disclosed by Sakayori to the component knowledge base management system as disclosed in Bennett just to illustrate that a component management system implemented in a client/server environment is well-known in the art (See for example: col. 5 lines 3-5). One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to make the aforementioned combination with reasonable expectation of success.

Claim 2 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 1 and furthermore Bennett discloses a component management device comprising a management unit managing the component development knowledge data base by controlling when a client takes out the hardware and firmware development data as component development data (See for example: Bennett, col. 169 32-34; col. 11 lines

26-48 and Appendix I; col. 7 lines 14-24; col. 11 lines 31-43, and col. 20 lines 31-53; Sakayori, Fig. 1 and Fig. 2).

Claim 3 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 2 and furthermore Bennett discloses a component management device wherein said hardware and firmware development data as a plurality of component development data constitute a hierarchical structure and said storage unit stores meta-information expressing the hierarchical structure and said client takes out a desired component development data from said plurality of component development data constituting the hierarchical structure based on the meta information (See for example: Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, which illustrates a hierarchical structure; col. 3 line 50 – col. 4 line 3, which illustrates the meta information in a hierarchical structure, and wherein what a client receives as a final response of order of parts to take out is based on the hierarchical structure).

Claim 6 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 3.

Claim 7 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 2 and furthermore Sakayori discloses a component management device wherein

said management unit sends a notice of revision to said client ... (col. 1 lines 20-23, "When a change in a component occurs due to a design change, past records of specification changes and so on are registered as quality information in the data base for management."); (Abstract, "...updating the stored quality information in accordance with a check result, and transmitting the updated quality information to a shop that uses the component.").

and sends a notice of new registration to said client ..., and wherein said client takes out said component ... (col. 11 lines 29-48, "Information indicating that the part "d" is replaced by "d-1" and the unit "D" is replaced by "D-1" using the new part arrives via data bus 991 and is registered as quality information in a server data base 903.

Updating of information in the data bases 911 and 903 is processed under control of the data update module 1602 (FIG. 16). When the quality information in the data base is changed, the data transfer module 1605 (FIG. 16, referred to as a resident process A hereinafter) in the server 901 is started up, whereby a transfer process of the quality information begins (such that the quality information is successively transferred to the queue 950) (processing 1, 2, 3, 4). The resident process A extracts the data to be transferred from the data base 903. Then, the resident process A searches and identifies the IP address, password, and user ID of the processing area at the transfer destination from the configuration management table 970. In the configuration management tables 970 and 980, the order issuing/receiving relationship between the shops is defined by the shop order issuing/receiving management module 1607 (FIG. 16). [It is inherent that the client must order a component before the order issuing/receiving management module can respond and for the client to issue an order, it is again inherent that a notice of a new component's registration is received.]").

Claim 8 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 2 and furthermore Sakayori discloses a component management device wherein said management unit conducts communications related to the development consignment of said product with a development maker side client ... (col. 2 lines 50-61, "For example,

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in the case of carrying out a quality inspection of the part "d-1" that has been substituted for the part "d" due to a design change, or in the case of carrying out a performance test of the unit "D-1" using the part "d-1", persons engaged in departments of design [analogous to a development maker side client], quality management, etc. may need to know about the arrival of the changed substance at an appropriate point in time. Conventionally, those persons would only become aware of the arrival of the changed substance upon receiving a notice [communications] from the part receiving department or by searching a data base to determine whether the changed substance has been delivered.").

Claim 10 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 2.

Claim 11 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claims 2 and 3.

Claim 13 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 1 and furthermore Bennett discloses a component management system wherein the hardware and firmware development data is stored according to a numbering system common to both the hardware and the firmware development data and added to each hardware and firmware development data (See for example: cols. 153-158, APPENDIX IV (C) – KNOWLEDGE BASE FOR MINICOMPUTER PARTS CATALOG)

5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett et al., "Bennett " (U.S. Patent No. 4,591,983), and further in view of Sakayori et al.,

"Sakayori " (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,078) and further in view of Kavanagh et al.,
"Kavanagh" (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,965).

Claim 4 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 2 and furthermore Bennett discloses a component management wherein the meta-information comprises taking-out limiting information related to taking-out for each component development data, and wherein said client takes out the applicable component development data based on the taking-out limiting information (See for example: col. 11 lines 49-61)

However the combination of Bennett and Sakayori does not explicitly disclose information comprises taking-out limiting information related to the permission/non-permission of taking-out for each component or said client takes out the applicable component development data only when said client gets the permission.

Kavanagh taking-out limiting information related to the permission/non-permission of taking-out for each component or said client takes out the applicable component development data only when said client gets the permission (col.4 lines 41-43 ". Through the use of an object oriented knowledge base, the present invention can make access to part data intuitive, instantaneous, definitive, and can encompass all parts "); (col. 15 lines 22-31, "A login procedure is initiated by a user logging into the retriever 130, as depicted in step 150 in FIG. 4A. The user's name and password are sent to the registry server 141, as shown in 151. In step 152, the user name and password are validated by the registry server 141. If the user name and password are not valid, the flow returns to step 150 and the user must try again. If the

name and password are valid, the flow continues to step 153 in which the retriever 130 asks for an appropriate software license from the license manager 142.”).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize taking-out limiting information related to permission as disclosed by Kavanagh to access the component data as disclosed in the combination of Bennett and Sakayori as a means to control unauthorized user access to the system (col. 4 line 29).

6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett et al., “Bennett ” (U.S. Patent No. 4,591,983), further in view of Sakayori et al., “Sakayori ” (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,078), and further in view of Lee (U.S. Patent No. 4,610,000).

Claim 5 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 2. However the combination of Bennett and Sakayori does not explicitly disclose patch information comprised in a component, ... wherein said client performs the patch processing to the applicable firmware ...

Lee teaches patch information comprised in a component, ... wherein said client performs the patch processing to the applicable firmware ... (col. 1 lines 30-34, “A feature of the invention is that the ROM [firmware] patch functions may be performed without the use of special control pins or high voltages, but through the use of sequences of addresses within the ordinary address range.”).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the ROM [firmware] patch process as disclosed by

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Lee to into the device component update process as disclosed in the combination of Bennett and Sakayori so that ROM [equivalent to firmware] may be patched and repatched so that errors may be corrected by an application system designer (col. 1 lines 35-37).

7. Claims 12, 15, 16, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett et al., "Bennett " (U.S. Patent No. 4,591,983), and further in view of Sakayori et al., "Sakayori " (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,078) and further in view of Call (U.S. Patent No. 6,154,738).

Claim 12 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 1. However the combination of Bennett and Sakayori does not explicitly disclose that the component development knowledge database is Extensible Markup Language (XML) data

Call teaches a database storing product information in XML format (col. 2 lines 4-11).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize XML as the storage format as disclosed by Call to store the component development knowledge data as disclosed in the combination of Bennett and Sakayori. By storing information expressed in eXtensible Markup Language (XML), and by using stylesheet information provided by the web site which is incorporating product information into their web presentations, the data supplied by the manufacturer can be rendered using font sizes, typefaces, background colors and formatting selected by the web page producer. Other characteristics of XML, including the ability to

encourage or enforce conformity with content and formatting standards (col. 2 line 64-
col. 3 line 10).

Claim 15 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 12 and furthermore Bennett discloses a component management system wherein the XML data comprises destination information of the hardware and firmware development data (See for example: APPENDIX II (A) – (E)).

Claim 16 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 12 and furthermore Sakayori discloses a component management system wherein the XML data comprises new and revised design notice information of the hardware and firmware development data (See for example: col. 1 lines 20-23; Abstract, "...updating the stored quality information in accordance with a check result, and transmitting the updated quality information to a shop that uses the component."; col. 11 lines 29-48).

Claim 17 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 12.

8. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett et al., "Bennett " (U.S. Patent No. 4,591,983), and further in view of Sakayori et al., "Sakayori " (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,078) and further in view of Shiell (U.S. Patent No. 5,950,012).

Claim 14 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 13. However the combination of Bennett and Sakayori does not explicitly disclose a component development management system, wherein patch information of each firmware development data is included as a subclass in the numbering system.

Shiell teaches that patch information of each firmware development data is included as a subclass in the numbering system (See for example: col. 6 lines 32-39; col. 26 lines 16-29).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate patch information of each firmware development as a subclass as disclosed by Shiell in the numbering system disclosed in the combination of Bennett and Sakayori so that in response to the type of the configuration, the method selects a set of patch codes from a plurality of sets of patch codes (Abstract).

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As to dependent claim 9, the prior art of record does not anticipate nor suggest any component management device wherein a management unit conducts communications for getting the permission of quotation of a catalog of parts constituting a product with an author side client placed in the author side of the catalog and registers the catalog as a data base in said storage unit when it gets the permission, in the specific combination as recited in claim 2.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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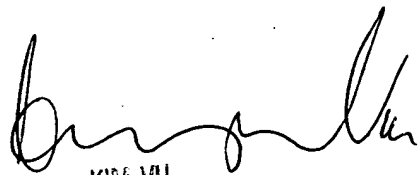
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GWEN LIANG whose telephone number is 703-305-3985. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. Monday and Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, KIM VU can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

G.L.
July 14, 2003


KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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